

## Indian Education for All Museum Educator Best Practices Program: Museums and Schools as Coeducators

The Office of Public Instruction and the Montana Historical Society have formed a partnership to create Indian Education for All (IEFA) learning opportunities for museum practitioners and school teachers. A grant program titled, “Indian Education For All - Museum Educator Best Practices: Museums and Schools as Coeducators,” will create partnerships between museum staff and public school teachers. Participants will gain knowledge about museum education best practices, connecting museums and classroom learning, and strengthening community learning partners. Preference will be given to new applicants in the selection process, although past awardees are encouraged to apply. The overall project will result in an ongoing IEFA curriculum-based publication for all Montana museums and schools to use as they become coeducators in their communities.

The focus of this intensive 10 week program is for local museums to assist in the implementation of IEFA, therefore, Museum applicants must own a Montana Indian collection and must partner with one of their local public school districts. Because of the emphasis on IEFA, grant applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the OPI Indian Education Division website to learn more about this important work: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/IndianEd/Index.html>. Focus should be given to the Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians as a direct connection to at least one Essential Understanding and must be contained in the grant proposal. The Essential Understandings can be found at: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/indianed/resources/EssentialUnderstandings.pdf>.

Grantees will be required to attend a three day seminar at the Montana Historical Society and make a learning trip to one of five Montana Museums to be designated.

Deadline for applications is 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 30, 2008. Awards will be announced on Friday, May 16. All funds must be expended and all tasks completed by December 15, 2008.

### ♦ 2008 Project Calendar

April 30	Grants Deadline
May 16	Awardees announced
May 19- June 6	Teams prepare for visit by Project Coordinator (begin preliminary team building)
June 9 - 11	Seminar at Montana Historical Society, Helena
June 12 – Aug 15	Teams travel to at least one designated museum in Montana for workshop
Dec 15	Grant tasks completed

### ♦ Grant qualifications and criteria

1. Museum must own a Montana American Indian collection that is sizeable enough to display and is appropriate for use in K-12 schools.
2. American Indian collection must include accurate and authentic materials.
3. Team must consist of 2-3 members (at least one teacher and one museum employee per team).

### ♦ Grant application components

The application must be no longer than three pages total (1.5 line spaced, 12 point font) and must include the following:

1. Introduction – provide a brief introduction to your museum and your current American Indian collection, including categories of pre-historic and historic artifacts, archival material, and traditional and contemporary American Indian art;

2. Work Plan – provide details to 1) expand ongoing or implement new collaboration with a local school district (include a brief history of past collaborative efforts), 2) increase awareness and access to American Indian collection and 3) promote IEFA through a demonstrated connection with at least one of the Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians (see link above);
3. Demonstrated need – state museum’s need for supplies, materials and/or equipment to enhance presentation of American Indian collection and to provide adequate preservation of collection.

(Only those grant applications that meet the line and page constraints will be considered.)

♦ **Rubric**

Applications will be scored on the following rubric, incorporating each of the Grant Application Components.

	Weak – Score of 1	Intermediate – Score of 3	Strong – Score of 5
Component 1	American Indian collection is insufficient for purposes of this grant.	American Indian collection is sizeable enough to warrant connection with K-12 system.	American Indian collection is sizable and varied enough for sustained connection with K-12 system
Component 2	Teacher and K-12 system involvement in project will be minimal.	Museum has, in the past, collaborated with area schools. Teacher and K-12 system involvement is moderate and project will increase schools’ understanding of the museum’s American Indian collection. Outlines plan to expand future ongoing IEFA collaboration between museum and area schools. Grant demonstrates basic understanding of IEFA and is linked to at least one Essential Understanding.	Museum has, in the past, provided an IEFA focused program for schools. Teacher and K-12 system involvement is extensive and project will increase schools’ and communities’ understanding of the museum’s American Indian collection. Outlines a detailed plan to expand future ongoing IEFA collaboration between museum and school and students. Grant demonstrates thorough understanding of IEFA and is linked to more than one Essential Understanding.
Component 3	Need for collection preservation is low.	Need for collection preservation is moderate.	Need for collection maintenance and preservation is high.

♦ **Send completed applications to:**

Richard Sims  
Montana Historical Society  
PO Box 201201  
Helena, MT 59620-1201

♦ **For more information contact:**

Richard Sims, Montana Historical Society – [rsims@mt.gov](mailto:rsims@mt.gov) – (406)-444-5485  
Or Mandy Smoker Broaddus, Office of Public Instruction – [mbroaddus@mt.gov](mailto:mbroaddus@mt.gov) – (406)-444-3013